

# DMAP Newsletter

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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*Drawing By Donald "Duck" Locascio, Jr.  
Region 4 Wildlife Forester*

## Chronic Wasting Disease Update

By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is in the second year of a 5-year surveillance program to annually test 1,000 deer for Chronic Wasting Disease. Due to the large sample needed, hunter killed deer provide the most practical source of fresh brain and lymph gland tissue. DMAP cooperators, Wildlife Management Area hunters and deer processing plants are the primary sources of hunter killed deer. Additional samples are collected year-round by LDWF biologists from sick deer, confiscated illegal deer and road kills.

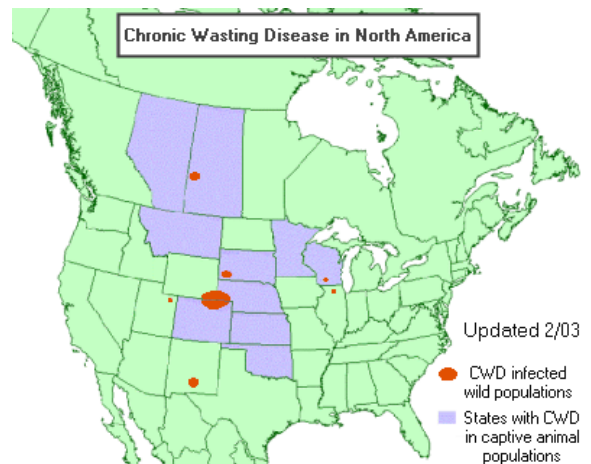
In 2003-2004, tissue samples were collected from 1,050 wild white-tailed deer statewide. Samples are being tested at the Southeast Wildlife Disease Laboratory at the University of Georgia. Testing is in the early stages at this time, but **no CWD was detected in the first 657 samples processed for LDWF**. Final results are expected by July. CWD was not detected in any of the 1,258 samples tested in 2002-03, the first year of this long-term surveillance effort.

Nationally, CWD testing is also incomplete for 2003, but so far CWD has not been detected in any new states. However, most CWD endemic states found additional areas of infection either in the wild or in captive herds. Some of these cases represent the gradual spreading of CWD and in others, the implementation of more thorough testing.

CWD is a fatal and incurable brain disease of white-tailed deer that occurs at very low prevalence rates. Completed 2003 testing found a positive CWD rate of 3% (16/4,800) in Nebraska, 2.3% (9/4,000) in Illinois and <1% (112/14,866) in Wisconsin. In states that have a long history of CWD testing, sick animals are targeted for testing because experience has proven that CWD is found at a much higher rate in these clinical suspects.

LDWF places a very high priority on testing these clinical suspects. If you see a sick deer this

summer, please contact your local Wildlife and Fisheries office as soon as possible.



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## Final Analysis—2003-04 Deer Season

By David Moreland, Deer Study Leader

Hunter success in Louisiana is dependent upon the weather. In general, when the temperature is warm (above 60 degrees) deer movement is poor. A review of the weather conditions across the state this past season is presented below:

Week	Av. Temp.	Remarks
9/29-10/5	60-70	Oct. 3rd, low 40
10/6/12	70	wet week
10/13/19	60-80	dry and pleasant week
10/27-11/2	65	warmer than normal
11/3/09	67	unusually warm( 80s)
11/10/16	64	heavy rain (some 80s)
11/17/23	64	6 degrees above normal
11/24/30	50	1st fall freeze
12/1/07	51	very cold on 5th & 6th
12/8/14	48	very cold on 11th & 12th
12/15/22	47	two cold fronts
12/22/28	52	70 some days
12/29-01/4	58	10 degrees above ave.
1/5/11	44	coldest weather to date
1/12/18	55*	8 degrees above normal
1/19/25	47	last week of gun hunting
1/26-2/1	46	last week of bow hunting

\*Normally coldest week of the year.

Other factors influencing hunter success and overall deer sightings include habitat changes on a tract of land, mast abundance (which impacts

deer utilization at food plots and feeders), annual changes in deer populations due to reproductive success (or lack of success), and hunter disturbance during the season.

Mast production across the state this past fall was mainly limited to the Red Oak Group (water, willow, cherrybark, southern red, Nuttall). Acorn production from the White Oak Group (white oak, cow oak, overcup oak, post oak) was low, although some white oak mast was available in a few localized areas around the state. Examination of deer stomachs revealed high utilization of red oak acorns around the state. Hunters who concentrated their efforts primarily on food plots and feeders probably did not experience high success, especially when the acorns were falling. The mild October and November weather also kept the native plant forage green and available.

November is the important month for hunters in Areas 2, 3, 7, and 8. The mild weather during the peak of the rut no doubt had an impact on deer sightings and hunter success. The cold weather in December and January came too late to increase hunter success. By late December, bucks were losing their antlers in these areas of the state. The cold weather in December and January should have helped Area 1, 4, 5, and 6 hunters. However, these cold fronts lasted only a day or two, and this made it difficult to pattern deer. The last two weeks of January provided hunters with the most consistent cold weather and should have benefited the Area 6 hunters.

Data indicate a decline and leveling off of the doe harvest in LA. This could be related to the aging of our hunter population and the aging of clubs across the state. Keeping the doe harvest at a high level involves a lot of effort and work on the part of clubs and hunters and it appears the desire to do this is waning.

Based upon the initial reports from hunters and clubs the statewide deer harvest will be down from 2002. I expect the estimated harvest to be around 215,000 deer. Documentation of the quality or trophy deer harvest for this past season has begun and it appears to be good. A potential new state typical record buck was harvested in East Carroll

Parish. Several large non-typical bucks were also harvested. It appears that the number of recognition deer from this past season will be high. The annual harvest survey will be mailed out at the end of this month. Clubs and landowners will also begin submitting harvest records to the various regions.

## **2004 Deer Season Recommendations**

*By David Moreland, Deer Study Leader*

Louisiana, like Alabama and several other southeastern states, obtains harvest data from a mail-out survey. This type of survey is cost-efficient and is designed to be statistically sound. We are presently in the process of setting the 2004/05 hunting seasons. Season dates and regulation proposals were presented to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at their March meeting at Toledo Bend. Since then, the Department has hosted public meetings around the state to allow hunters the opportunity to comment on the proposed dates and regulations. At these meetings it became apparent that hunters do not understand the survey process.

Our annual harvest survey was designed with assistance from LSU. In order for a survey to be valid, it must be done in a random fashion. If it was not, the survey could easily be biased and would have no scientific validity. Our survey is based on a random sample specific resident license holders. Since we use a point-of-sale license system, names selected are from the current year's license holders. A 6% random sample of basic resident license holders and lifetime license holders is selected from each parish using a computer program. Approximately 15,000 hunters are selected each year to participate in the survey. About thirty percent of the hunters respond each year and data from the responses are used to develop wildlife harvest and days afield estimates. Other statistics, such as the average number of deer killed per hunter, also are determined. The 2003/04 harvest survey was mailed out to selected hunters on March 15. If you were one of the hunters selected, I encourage you to return the survey in a prompt fashion.

From past surveys, we know that hunters support the concept of quality deer management in Louisiana. Quality deer management (QDM) basically involves allowing the younger bucks, mainly 1½ year-old deer, to grow older. This management scheme is designed to get them into the 2 or 3 year-old age classes before they are harvested. It should not be confused with trophy management, which is aimed toward allowing bucks to get to be four to six years of age. There are several ways to accomplish this, including antler regulations, buck limits, and shorter deer seasons.

- **2000/01 Harvest Survey** – 86% of deer hunters support the concept of Quality Deer Management (development of an older age structure of bucks)
- **2001/02 Harvest Survey** – 76% of the deer hunters support reducing the bag limit of bucks.
- **2002/03 Harvest Survey** – 77% of the deer hunters support deer tagging with mandatory reporting

Many of the mid-western states such as Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa have very short gun seasons and restricted buck limits. Kentucky has a one buck limit. Mississippi has a three-buck limit and antler restrictions. But, they have found some problems with their antler restrictions and are developing some management options to address them. LDWF believes that the best way to manage for quality deer in Louisiana is with a buck limit rather than a statewide antler restriction. A two-buck limit would reduce the current antlered buck kill by about twenty percent, thus significantly increasing the number of older bucks in the population over time. A three-buck limit would only reduce the current buck harvest by less than ½ that of the two-buck limit. If the hunters in this state really want to move in the direction of quality deer management, the two-buck limit would have the most impact.

The question was asked at the March Commission meeting about how Louisiana stacks up to

Alabama as far as quality deer. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Records of North American White-tailed Deer* contains the following information for the two states regarding the trophy deer harvest. Again, keep in mind that a quality deer management program is not the same as a trophy deer program. I am presenting information about **trophy deer**, but the implications of this data would be the same for the quality deer. We have a Louisiana Recognition Program that tracks the harvest of quality deer over a three-year period.

State	Typical Boone and Crockett		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	160-170	170+
AL	186 3/8	6 entries	4 entries
LA	184 6/8	4 entries	13 entries

	Non- Typical Boone and Crockett	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	200+
AL	259 7/8	5
LA	281 6/8*	9

\*The McMurray buck (taken on the Big Lake WMA) was the #1 non-typical buck killed in North American from 1992-1994.

The current Big Game Record List for Louisiana contains thirty-seven bucks scoring 170 or greater in the typical category and twenty-two bucks scoring 195 or greater in the non-typical category.

This information clearly demonstrates that our quality is every bit as good as Alabama. Louisiana is not nationally known as one of the top states for deer hunting. During the 2002/03 season only 826 nonresident big game season licenses were sold and only 915 nonresident big game five-day hunt licenses were sold. In contrasts, there were 8,594 nonresident duck licenses sold. We are known for our waterfowl hunting. If our deer quality is good, why is there so little attention from non-resident deer hunters? All of the land in Louisiana is basically leased or posted by resident landowners and hunters. Except for the public lands, which a much more limited than in many other states, there really is no place for nonresidents to deer hunt. This lack of access will probably prevent Louisiana from ever being in the national spotlight for deer hunting.

I think it is evident that Louisiana can produce both quality and trophy deer. Quality deer management is presently being practiced on some lands around the state (see photos). Hunters have indicated that they would like to see it statewide. This is the reason the Department has recommended a two-buck limit for 2004. Whether hunters believe that this move is too drastic or is the proper way to achieve QDM, now is the time to contact the Department and/or Commission to voice your opinion. The final season dates and regulations will be set at the July Commission meeting.



Two quality/trophy bucks taken by Ken Hammonds on Buck Ridge DMAP Unit, Caldwell Parish, 2003-04

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## Deer Research/Biology

Disgruntled hunters are quick to blame inbreeding

and poor genetics for “small freaky” antlers. The human experience with animal husbandry, particularly domestic livestock, is often transposed to deer management leading to the conclusion that improving antler size is as simple as bringing in a new brood buck to improve the blood line. This mind-set of quick-fix genetics diverts managers/landowners attention away from the real problems of nutrition and age, and may in fact be partially responsible for the spread of CWD and at the very least, genetic pollution of some native deer herds.

Through the use of DNA testing researchers are now beginning to answer the age-old question “Who by” in determining the parentage of fawns. The early picture developing from this research indicates that deer reproduction is a lot more complex than once thought. Studies of pen and free-ranging deer are showing 25 – 30 % of twin fawns being parented by two different bucks, yearling bucks producing 30% of the fawns, some bucks perceived as “dominant” producing no fawns, and the most successful bucks producing only 3 to 5 fawns each year. This means the old tried and true livestock method of putting a new bull in the pasture is inappropriate for white-tailed deer. See the two research abstracts below.

### Can a Selective Buck Harvest affect Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer Antler Characteristics?

*By Micky Hellickson et al King Ranch, Inc., Texas A&M Kingsville, Miss. State University, Texas Parks and Wildlife. Southeast Deer Study Group 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2004, Lexington, KY*

Selective breeding experiments with penned deer have documented rapid improvement in antler quality. **This study was designed to determine if rapid improvement in antler quality was possible in a free-ranging population subjected to selective harvest.** The study was conducted on King Ranch in south Texas, included 9,500-acre treatment and control areas. Both received similar, conservative, sport harvest. The treatment area also received intensive culling of 1.5-year old bucks with less than 6 antler points and bucks 2.5 years and older with less than 9 points. Results



were monitored by annual helicopter and spotlight surveys and live capture on both areas. We report 5 years of results through the fall 2003 capture. Culling on the treatment area resulted in 34, 66, 13 and 7 bucks removed during the 1999-2002 hunting seasons. Census data for the treatment area indicated 22.8 deer/1,000 acres prior to the study versus 17.8 deer/1,000 acres after study initiation. Census data for the control area indicated 32.8 deer/1,000 acres prior to the study versus 20.1 deer/1,000 acres after study initiation. Five years of capture resulted in 165 bucks on the treatment area and 106 on the control area. **Percentage of captured 1.5 to 2.5-year-old males qualified as culls has not differed during any year between the treatment and control areas.** Small sample size requires study continuation to discern any effects of the culling.

### Harvest Management Affects the Distribution of Male Breeding Success and Genetic Structure in Populations of White-tailed Deer

*By Randy DeYoung et al Miss. State University, Samuel Noble Foundation, Texas A&M University, King Ranch, Inc. Southeast Deer Study Group 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2004, Lexington, KY.*

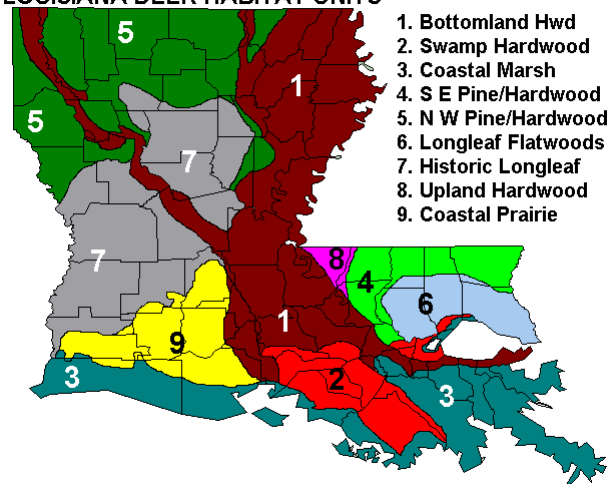
The alteration of population demographic parameters through harvest management is known to affect physical health and behavior of white-tailed deer, but the impacts of these practices on genetic characteristics of populations have not been established. We sampled 3 areas where different management practices, traditional harvest (heavy buck kill), quality deer management (balanced harvest of males and females) and trophy buck management (high mature bucks). Where mature males (3.5-years and older) comprised over 30% of the male population, they sired about 70% of sampled offspring. Populations with young male age structure (80% males less than 3.5-years old) and female-biased sex ratios provided more equitable breeding opportunities for younger bucks to breed. **Our results did not support the basic assumption that relatively few dominant males sire the majority of offspring.** Parentage assignment indicated that breeding was distributed among a

large number of males regardless of population structure (age & sex ratios). Young males sired about 30% of offspring even in populations containing 30% to 58% mature males. Many bucks sired less than 2.5 fawns each and one buck sired a maximum of 10 fawns. **White-tailed deer appear to have suffered no inbreeding or reduced population genetic diversity under the management regimes we studied.**

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### Louisiana Deer Habitat

LOUISIANA DEER HABITAT UNITS



Louisiana's 17 million acres of occupied deer habitat can be divided into 9 habitat types based on inherent soil fertility. Productivity, whether it is for agriculture, wildlife (including deer), or fish is much higher in the rich bottomland and upland hardwood sites of the state (26% of the deer habitat). The northwestern and southeastern pinelands are moderately fertile (24% of the habitat) while the historic longleaf and longleaf flatwoods, coastal marsh, coastal prairie, swamp hardwood (50% of the habitat) are the least fertile.

The following two articles discuss quality buck management at both ends of the productivity spectrum, low fertility habitat in southwest Louisiana and extremely productive Mississippi River alluvial soils in northeast Louisiana.

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## Antler Point Harvest Restrictions: Good or Bad for Deer Management In Southwest Louisiana?

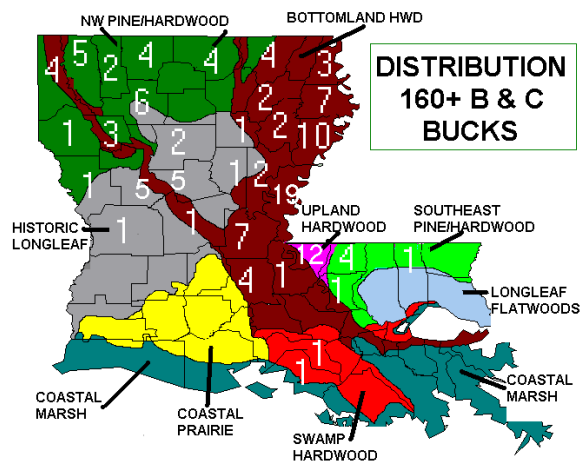
By John Robinette Region 5 Wildlife Biologist

Today, some deer hunters are talking about quality or trophy deer management across the State. Many of these deer hunters speak strongly about the State promoting antler point restrictions of a buck having six (6) points or better to be legal to harvest. Other deer hunters do not want antler point restriction of any kind placed on the harvesting of deer. They believe that quality or trophy buck management should be left up to the individual landowners or hunting clubs.

There are many factors that must be considered by deer hunters, landowners and state wildlife and political officials in the management of deer in Louisiana. The most important factor in deer management is the habitat and its ability to support a deer population (deer carrying capacity). The first question that must be asked is, "Can the habitat support deer and at what population density?". Low deer populations on good quality habitat produce better quality deer, while high deer populations on poor quality habitat produce poor quality deer. Hunters must choose between low deer populations where you see fewer deer of higher quality and high deer populations where you see many deer of lower quality. Most deer hunters want it both ways, lots of deer with lots of antlers.

To produce quality deer requires landowners or hunting clubs to maintain quality deer habitats and keep deer herds at or below carrying capacity. It may not even work if the habitat is poor in fertility. This the main obstacle in trying to manage for trophy deer by adopting only antler point restriction in the harvesting of bucks.

Southwest Louisiana will never produce large numbers of trophy antlered bucks because the soil fertility is extremely poor and most hunting clubs are not harvesting enough deer.



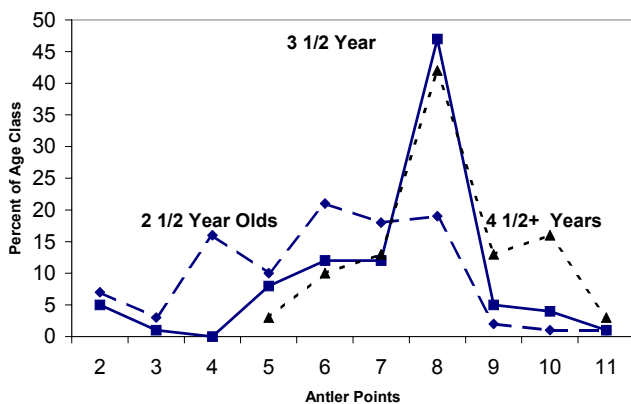
Deer antler production in southwest Louisiana can now be looked at a little closer by analyzing buck harvest data from the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). Data from bucks harvested on 250 deer hunting clubs (500,000 acres) provide a manager a good picture of antler development by age group and size.

Harvest data show that if Louisiana went to a 6-point or better deer antler harvest restriction in southwest Louisiana, buck harvest would be reduced by 55%. In other words 55% of the antlered bucks currently taken do not have 6-point antlers. Most of these bucks (82%) were 1½-years-old, 15% were 2½, 2% were 3½ and 1% were 4½. The 6-point or better rule may allow more 1½ year-old deer become older but they likely will not produce better antlers than those currently being produced. In fact, it may have the opposite effect by allowing more deer to live and compete for available food.

Deer hunters would still be able to harvest 18% of the 1½-year old deer which are 6 points or better. But, these are the deer you want to move into an older age class. It also would allow 18% of the older deer with poor antler development to remain in the deer herd as potential breeders. The main question which these data pose to deer hunters of southwest Louisiana is: "Are you willing to reduce your chances of harvesting a buck deer by 50% with the hope that it may, but not likely, increase

the quality of bucks in the future? “

Data analysis illustrate another interesting fact about buck antler development in southwest Louisiana. The average points on 2½-year-old bucks was 6 and the average points on 3½, 4½ and 5½-year-old bucks was 7 points. Many people believe that the older bucks always have bigger racks. Data show that many of the 2½-, 3½-, 4½- and 5½-year-old deer had 8 points but the racks were equal in size regardless of age. Few bucks within these age groups develop antlers with more points. The average weight was between 140 to 150 pounds for each age group. Data also indicate that antlers and weight did not increase much once bucks reached adult age. This does not mean that there aren't larger individual bucks with larger racks and heavier weights; it just shows that the majority of the adult bucks seem to be in the 8 point category regardless of age.



Many people believe bucks live long lives, but deer harvest data indicate that 56% of the bucks harvested were 1½ years old, 25% were 2½, 13% were 3½, 4% were 4½ and 1% was 5½. No bucks older than 5½ were harvested over the past several years in southwest Louisiana. This information confirms that the bucks seldom live past 4½ to 5½ years of age.

The data also show that we were harvesting more bucks than does. If we are to have any impact on creating better quality bucks, deer hunters need to reduce the total deer population, which in turn would have more of an impact on the quality of deer within this part of the state.

**Deer harvest data from southwest Louisiana indicate that antler point harvest restriction on bucks would probably have little affect on producing more quality bucks, but would greatly reduce the number of bucks being harvested.**

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## Down and Dirty Deer Management

*By Timothy L. Evans  
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One of the most common questions asked of myself and most other biologists that I've worked with is "What should we be planting to make our deer bigger?" It seems that with the advent of "designer" seed mixes and food supplements that exploded during the latter part of the 90's hunters have become convinced that bigger antlers and larger body weights can be poured from a sack.

The sad reality for most hunters is that the basis for all biological production is the inherent natural productivity of the site and the soil. **Basically it's all about the dirt.** I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in the delta region of Louisiana and Mississippi. By fortunate, I refer to the fact that a prominent deer biologist whom I respect deeply once said that "any knucklehead can grow a big deer in the delta". I am that knucklehead.

What he was saying is that the soils of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley are some of the richest, most fertile soils in the world. Couple that with a near 300-day annual growing season, and you have an instant recipe for success in growing quality deer--**just add age.**

But, therein lies the rub. We fall back to the biologists' regular admonition to shoot more does and let the bucks grow another year. Human nature pushes most of us at some point to question if there isn't something else that I could be doing that would shave a year or two off of that growth



process. A friend of mine who works as a biologist for International Paper Company said he's going to develop his own seed mix packaged in aluminum cans. He plans to call it "the Silver Bullet" because that is what the hunting public is searching for. They want that magic formula that causes buck fawns to be born with 8 point racks and yearlings to break 140 B&C. Unfortunately, despite what you might hear on the Outdoor Channel, it doesn't exist.

As a realist, I work in the real world, dealing with real world problems and achieving real world results. Here is an example of the real world that should hit close to home for most of you. Duncansby Towhead Hunting Club is a 3000ac± tract in East Carroll Parish, lying on the east side of the Mississippi River. It is a true island, thus the deer have no access to agricultural crops. Further, under Anderson-Tully Company's License Agreement, the club is not allowed to bait or feed. Only those crops grown on the island are available for supplemental forage, and they must be in their natural state. The result of this is that the club plants about 50 - 100 acres annually to green winter forages, wheat/oats/etc. This acreage being almost entirely in pipeline rights-of-way and sandfields that can not support timber production. Another 25 - 50 acres of corn and sunflowers is typically planted in the sandfield as there is always the hope of an early dove hunt. But, given the droughty nature of the site seed crops are spotty at best.

All in all, it's a nice club full of good folks. But what's most impressive is the fact that the two heaviest bucks I've ever seen were both harvested from this one island, a 270+ pound 8 point, and a 280+ pound 10 point. Well that and the fact that over the years, 2.5-year-old bucks have consistently averaged at or near 200 pounds live weight. Not to mention the fact that quite a few very nice racks have also been produced.



Tim Evans' son, Cameron, with his 195 lb 2 ½ -year-old buck (top) and Jerry Britton's 4 ½-year-old 220 lb buck (bottom), Duncansby Towhead DMAP Unit, East Carroll Parish, 2003.

These aren't corn fed Iowa monsters or Wisconsin blue bucks. These are East Carroll Parish deer feeding on natural foods. Did I mention that hard mast production is minimal on the island? There is no oak component to speak of, and pecans are a minor component of the forest. Hackberry, sycamore, locust, ash and cottonwood, your typical riverfront hardwood species, dominate the island

So how is it possible to grow deer of that size on a consistent basis if you can't feed or bait, and you don't have acorns? **Easy, you cut timber.** Aggressive consistent timber harvest has resulted in a luxuriant growth of dewberry, greenbriar, trumpet creeper, and a world of other "natural preferred browse species" across the island. These species are well adapted to the climate, the soil, and even the browsing pressure of the deer.

**Secondly, you shoot does.** Over time the data set developed from this club has shown that when total doe harvest drops below 40 (1 per 75 or more acres), buck body weights decline in the following years. By maintaining a doe harvest of at least 45 animals per year (1 per 67 acres or less), and shooting only those bucks meeting a specified antler main beam length (currently 20") this club has achieved what others think is impossible in this part of the world.

Don't be suckered in by gimmicks and fads, don't believe all the hoopla you see and hear on TV. Talk to your biologist, develop a management plan with realistic goals, follow the guidelines you develop strictly, and collect accurate data. That's how you achieve results. Don't be afraid of supplemental feeding if that is what your biologist prescribes, but don't expect miracles or overnight success either. It takes at least 3.5 years for a buck to develop a trophy quality set of antlers, and these will continue to grow until age 7.5 years or older. In our world **less than 10%** of bucks live beyond age 3.5. If we refuse to allow them to reach an age where body growth has leveled off and antler growth is maximized, what right do we have to complain?

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## People

### Economic Impact of Deer Hunting

*By Larry Savage, DMAP Coordinator*

Deer hunters help balance Louisiana's deer herd with available habitat by annually harvesting

200,000+ deer. The removal of surplus deer contributes to the state's welfare in many ways, helping both hunting and non-hunting citizens. By balancing the deer population, hunters help protect the state's plant communities (agricultural, native and ornamental), contribute to human safety (deer car/airplane collisions), prevent diseases (lyme disease etc) and, a less known aspect--make a significant contribution to the state's economy.

Recent (2001) estimates place the total economic impact of Louisiana deer hunters at approximately \$320 million. Deer hunting in Louisiana is big business! Each purchase made by hunters (from bullets to honey buns) sends a ripple through the economy called the multiplier effect--taxes, jobs etc. Based on the total economic impact, Louisiana's 17 million acres of deer habitat contributes \$19/acre to the state's economy as well as over 3,300 jobs.

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF DEER HUNTING

STATE	IMPACT		JOBS	SALES TAX
	Total	Per Acre		
Texas	\$2,019	\$24	17,907	\$49
Alabama	\$957	\$19	10,960	\$19
Georgia	\$613	\$26	6,349	\$ 9
N. Carolina	\$607	\$26	6,316	\$14
Tennessee	\$577	\$35	5,073	\$16
Missouri	\$445	\$33	4,158	\$ 8
Mississippi	\$441	\$22	4,645	\$16
Kentucky	\$409	\$16	3,714	\$11
Arkansas	\$383	\$11	4,363	\$11
S. Carolina	\$346	\$25	3,564	\$ 9
Virginia	\$337	\$17	3,192	\$ 7
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>\$320</b>	<b>\$19</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>\$ 8</b>
Oklahoma	\$305	\$13	3,523	\$ 7
Florida	\$296	\$16	3,163	\$ 8
W. Virginia	\$233	\$16	2,350	\$ 8
Maryland	\$156	\$28	1,358	\$ 4

\$ = Millions of Dollars

#### SOURCES:

1. 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

2. The Economic Impact of Hunting in America, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

3. Proceedings 27th Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting 2004 Lexington Kentucky

## Florida Man Dies After Hitting Deer On I-20

By Christy Futch ([cfutch@thenewsstar.com](mailto:cfutch@thenewsstar.com)) From the Monroe News Star May 6, 2003

A military man from Florida was killed late Sunday when his westbound motorcycle struck a deer on Interstate 10 near the Ruston city limits.

Louisiana State Police Sgt. Chuck Harris said that William Seiler, 34, Clewiston, Fla., was a member of the U.S. Air Force. Harris didn't know what rank Seiler had.

Police have not determined why Seiler was traveling in the area, Harris said. Harris said Seiler was driving a 1999 Kawasaki motorcycle when he hit the deer around 9 p.m. Seiler was pronounced dead at the scene.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident, Harris said.

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## National Archery in the Schools Program

By Roy Grimes, Deputy Commissioner KDFWR at "Today's Hunting Culture: Asset or Liability" Southeast Deer Study Group 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2004, Lexington, KY.

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Kentucky Department of Education initiated the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) in March 2002. The program's intent is to facilitate teaching of "Olympic-style" target archery for two weeks as part of an Elementary, Middle, or High School physical education curriculum entitled "On Target for Life". After successfully piloting the program in 22 Kentucky schools, it has now been implemented in more than 200 state schools. During the pilot phase of the program a survey of student's participants revealed that 89% enjoyed the class, 73% did not own a bow, and 62% had never shot a bow. After the pilot, 49% of the students reported they'd like to own a bow, 59% would like to take up target archery, and 38% would like to try bowhunting.

### Teachers Report:

- Students are enthusiastic about learning archery
- Students' behavior and attendance are improved on archery days
- Students that historically resisted PE are eager to participate in archery
- Students who excel in archery class are not only the stereotypical athletes



Photo from Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Web Site

The program has been adopted by several other states with many more planning to pilot NASP. Due to NASP early success, educators, wildlife professionals and the archery industry are working together to make it available to students everywhere. According to KDFWR, 49 states have contacted Kentucky about this program. For more information about NASP use these contacts: [www.kyafield.com](http://www.kyafield.com) or (800)858-1549. John Sturgis, LDWF Education Supervisor, indicated that Louisiana is in the process of developing a pilot program to launch NASP in the state.

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## Deer Tales

### **“Bullwinkle”**

*By Tony Vidrine, Region 6 Biologist*



This 4½-year-old buck was struck and killed by a vehicle on Highway 75 in Iberville Parish and reported by a passing motorist. Its unusual, moose-like muzzle likely was caused by a chronic bacterial infection. The infection resulted in severe inflammation of the subcutaneous tissues and lymph nodes in the head. The abnormally shaped head made it a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) clinical suspect deer. I responded to the report because of the Department’s interest in testing all clinically suspect animals as a routine aspect of our CWD surveillance program. The Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study located in Athens, GA made the diagnosis.



This deer is another “moose-headed” buck that was killed in EBR Parish during the 02/03 hunting season.

Please report any sick deer or deer exhibiting unusual behavior to your local wildlife office.

Region 1, Minden:	318/371-3050
Region 2, Monroe:	318/343-4044
Region 3, Alexandria:	318/485-5885
Region 4, Ferriday:	318/757-4571
Region 5, Lake Charles:	337/491-2575
Region 6, Opelousas:	337/948-0255
Region 7, Baton Rouge:	225/765-2360
Deer Program:	318/237-9858

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The DMAP Newsletter is printed twice a year to assist DMAP Cooperators with the intensive management of deer and habitat resources and to enhance the recreational enjoyment derived from these resources. It also updates cooperators with information on the administration of the program. **DMAP contact people**

**who receive the newsletter directly are encouraged to pass it to as many of their members as possible.** Please forward any questions or comments about DMAP or the DMAP Newsletter to:

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